

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAMA KO 00152 120907Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /092 W

-----120936Z 015058 /15

R 111742Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5508

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USUN NEW YORK 331

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 0152

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, PINS, ML

SUBJECT: ABORTED COUP PLOT IN MALI

REF: BAMA KO 0063

1. FURTHER CHECKS WITH RELIABLE LOCAL SOURCES REVEAL THAT NINE MALIANS WERE ARRESTED IN EARLY DECEMBER BY SECURITY POLICE FOR PLOTTING TAKE-OVER OF GOVERNMENT. LEADER OF GROUP WAS EX-EDUCATION MINISTER ABDOULAYE SINGARE; NEXT IN IMPORTANCE WAS JEAN-MARIE KONE, FIRST PRIME MINISTER OF INDEPENDENT MALI. PRESENT ARMY CHIEF--OF-STAFF LT. COL. BOUGARI SANGARE WAS QUESTIONED ABOUT POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT BUT HAS NOT BEEN RELIEVED OF HIS DUTIES. OTHERS MENTIONED WERE BUSINESSMAN NAMED SIDIBE AND ARMY LIEUTENANT NAMED DIALLO.

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2. THOSE ARRESTED REPRESENT LIBERAL (THAT IS, NON-RADICAL) WING OF MODIBO KEITA'S OLD PARTY THAT HAD OPPOSED KEITA'S STRIDENT ANTI-AMERICANISM AND SUICIDAL ECONOMIC POLICIES.

THIS GROUP HAD REPORTEDLY HOPED TO REPLACE KEITA IN LATE 60'S WHEN HE WAS CLEARLY FAILING. YOUNG MILITARY OFFICERS, HOWEVER, TOOK OVER GOVERNMENT AHEAD OF CIVILIAN GROUP

AND ENDED ALL POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

3. PLOT WAS APPARENTLY HATCHED DURING ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA IN LATE 1976 BUT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY UNCOVERED BY SECURITY POLICE, WHO HAD BEEN SUSPICIOUS OF SINGARE AND KONE BECAUSE OF THEIR ACTIVITIES IN LOCAL SIENTRO CLUB (SPELLING UNCERTAIN). CLUB IS A SOCIAL-DRINKING ORGANIZATION WHERE MALIANS WHO LIKE SCOTCH CAN MEET AND RELAX. JOSEPH MARA, MEMBER ON MILITARY COMMITTEE, BELONGS TO CLUB BUT WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THIS ABORTIVE COUP PLOT. SOME TIME DURING SUMMER OF 1976 SECURITY POLICE INFILTRATED SIENTRO CLUB AND TOOK NOTE OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS' VIEWS, LEADING TO DECISION TO FOLLOW THEM TO MECCA AND RESULTING ARRESTS WHEN GROUP RETURNED TO BAMAKO.

4. OF RELATED INTEREST, GOVERNMENT'S CRACKDOWN ON TAX

EVADERS HAS BEEN HELPFUL TO SECURITY DIRECTOR TIEKORO BAGAYOKO. HE HAS FORCED BUSINESSMEN IN ARREARS TO ASSIST SECURITY FORCES BY INFORMING ON THEIR COLLEAGUES' DISCONTENT IN RETURN FOR RELAXATION OF PRESSURE FOR PAYMENT OF BACK TAXES. ANCILLARY EFFECT HAS BEEN TO HASTEN DEPARTURE OF MALIAN CAPITAL FROM EASILY MONITORED LOCAL BANKS TO BANKS IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRY.

5. COMMENT: THIS ABORTED PLOT APPEARS TO HAVE PRESENTED NO THREAT TO MILITARY COMMITTEE AND ITS EFFICIENT SECURITY APPARATUS. THOSE ARRESTED COME FROM AN OLDER CONFIDENTIAL

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ERA WHOSE TIME HAS PASSED. POSITION OF CHIEF OF STAFF SANGARE MAY BE POTENTIALLY GREATER PROBLEM FOR REGIME, BUT SANGARE HAS NOT BEEN DISMISSED AND HIS ROLE REMAINS UNCLEAR. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO REPORT AS DEVELOPMENTS WARRANT.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PLOTS, ARRESTS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BAMAKO00152
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770011-0737
Format: TEL
From: BAMAKO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770165/aaaacegt.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bce3b6db-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BAMAKO 63
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3629112
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ABORTED COUP PLOT IN MALI
TAGS: PINT, PINS, ML, (SINGARE, ABDOULAYE), (KONE, JEAN-MARIE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bce3b6db-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009